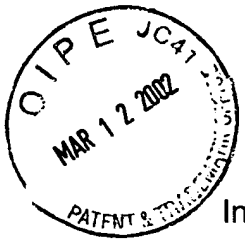


1732

ATTORNEY DOCKET: 40526.04501  
PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of  
Stephen B. Maguire

Serial No.: 09/883,837

Filed: June 18, 2001

For: LOW PRESSURE DRYER

Group Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: TBA

*Sub-Spec*  
*#11/Pro-B*  
*A.L.H.*  
*3-21-02*

RECEIVED  
MAR 15 2002  
10:17:00

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice,  
as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the second and third paragraphs with the following:

-- Plastic resins are initially granular materials and are produced in pellets.  
These pellets are processed into finished or semi-finished products by molding,  
extrusion or other means in which the granular resin pellets are heated until the  
pellets melt and may then be molded or extruded into a desired shape. Typically  
granular resins melt at elevated temperatures, for example from 300-400°F,  
which is well above the boiling point of water.

Many granular resins have affinity for moisture. These hydroscopic resins  
absorb moisture and cannot be properly processed by molding or extrusion until